

CALFED Watershed Management Program Meeting

Meeting Summary

March 10, 1998

The CALFED Watershed Management Program Meeting was held on Tuesday, March 10, 1998, from 10:00 a.m. until noon in Room 210 of the Resources Building.

CALFED Staff/Consultants present:

Lester Snow
Steve Yaeger
Rick Woodard
Judy Heath
Vanessa Nishikawa

Others present:

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| Dale Claypoole | Ed Hastey | Mike McCoy |
| Ken Coulter | Dianne Hokamb | Larry Puckett |
| Steve Cowdin | Buford Holt | John Rector |
| Jim Decker | Jerry Johns | Carl Rountree |
| Sara Denzler | Dennis Letl | Karen Schwinn |
| Bill Fakes | John Lowrie | Julie Tupper |
| Rebecca Fawver | Mary Madison | Phil Wendt |
| Karl Halupka | Stan Martinson | Sam Ziegler |

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss:

1. The CALFED watershed implementation approach
2. Local stakeholder involvement, and
3. The CALFED Watershed Management Strategy proposed organizational structure.

Lester Snow led the discussion with introductions. A review of the draft CALFED Watershed Management Strategy was presented by Judy Heath.

The key topics of discussion included:

- the need for local involvement in watershed activities;
- the need for high level coordination and communication in watershed activities;
- the proposed CALFED watershed organizational structure; and
- the regional stakeholder/Interim Interagency Watershed Advisory Team meetings.

Local Involvement

A statement was made that the difference between the CALFED Watershed Management Program and other existing programs is the recognition of the need for local involvement in the planning and implementation of watershed activities. A comment was made about the need to empower local and regional governments to better implement watershed projects. A high level of stakeholder involvement will be necessary for sustained watershed activities. The CALFED Bay-Delta Program is interested in long-term commitments to watershed activities.

Coordination and Communication

The need for better coordination and communication in watershed activities was also recognized. Such efforts would help reduce the tendency toward "reinventing the wheel" when planning and implementing a watershed activity, applying for funding, searching for information on existing activities and organizations, investigating model watersheds, etc. It was indicated that stakeholders should have a "one stop shopping" for watershed management projects. A suggestion was made to implement a framework to allow access to watershed-related information and that CALFED could integrate ongoing watershed management programs, which are relevant to the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. A recommendation was made that CALFED set up a structure for groups, maybe a clearinghouse function, to have easy access to existing information.

It was suggested that the agencies coordinate with their local staff or field representatives to insure that the same message is being communicated to local groups by all levels within an organization. The need to improve outreach efforts and provide opportunities for partnerships was also mentioned.

A suggestion was made that the Biodiversity Council could be a key group to play a role in helping to implement the CALFED Watershed Management Program. It was pointed out that the Council's data gathering functions and scientific review services could be utilized. It was further noted that the Council is probably not the best choice for implementation and outreach. Comments were made on the survivability of the Council after the new Governor takes office.

Proposed Watershed Organizational Structure

Lester presented a schematic of the CALFED Watershed Management Strategy Proposed Organizational Structure (attached). This structure shows the relationship of the Interagency Watershed Advisory Team and the local and regional watershed entities to the CALFED Policy Group and CALFED staff.

Lester indicated that we need to make sure there is an investment in the upper watersheds in the appropriations language for watershed projects. Currently, the lower watersheds are better situated because of the CALFED focus on the Bay-Delta problem area. Lester presented suggestions for appropriations language for watershed projects (attached). This consisted of an example set of conditions in order for watershed projects to be funded by CALFED.

A core group of agency representatives was formed to address the watershed management structure and appropriations language. The group decided to be called an interim group until a structure is decided upon. This Interim Interagency Watershed Advisory Team consists of one representative from each of the following eight agencies:

- Bureau of Land Management
- California Department of Water Resources
- California Resources Agency
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- State Water Resources Control Board/Regional Water Quality Control Board
- U.S. Department of Fish and Game
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Forest Service

The IIWAT will hold a meeting on March 30, 1998 to further refine the CALFED Watershed Management Organizational Structure and the appropriations language (criteria for participation).

Regional Stakeholder/IIWAT Meetings

Lester suggested that the regional stakeholder meetings should be held with members of the IIWAT present. These meetings will be held on April 23, 1998 (Sacramento) and on April 30, 1998 (Redding). Topics of discussion for these meetings will include:

A briefing and solicitation of comments on the CALFED Watershed Management Strategy; solicitation of recommendations on the proposed CALFED Watershed Management Organizational Structure and appropriations language; how to have effective regional watershed stakeholder liaison with CALFED; and a presentation by RCRC/Sierra Nevada Alliance/Shasta-Tehema Bioregional Council.

The IIWAT will further refine the plans for the stakeholder meetings at the March 30, 1998 meeting.